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## FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT & SECRETARY

### AAIR SIG and Annual Forum 2018

We are temporarily minding the AAIR President's Chair while Kathie is taking some leave, and we wanted to take the opportunity to share with you some information about our two major events for the year. If you receive this monthly newsletter you will also have received recent invitations to attend the AAIR SIG Forum and the AAIR Annual Forum. If you are wondering which one to attend – come to both! Not possible? Then let me try to help you decide which one is best for you.

### 2018 AAIR SIG Forum

The AAIR SIG Forum will be held in Canberra from 26 to 27 July with the theme, 'Politics, planning and performance: Good governance starts how?'. Good governance is an ever-increasing area of interest, and we obviously cannot avoid some sort of political theme given it is being held in the home of the Federal Government. We definitely expect an array of representatives from the Department of Education and Training, and there will of course be a focus on business intelligence and analytics, data warehousing, load management and government reporting. [Visit the 2018 SIG Forum website](#) to find out more.

We are very excited to have Professor Bruce Chapman as the keynote, as well as several very interesting concurrent sessions, and a panel discussion. The concurrent sessions and talks always explore topics in a very practical and applied way. The event is being held at [Rydges Capital Hill](#), Canberra, with the dinner being held in the [National Press Club of Australia](#).

### 2018 AAIR Annual Forum

This year the AAIR Annual Forum returns to Melbourne from 19 to 21 November with the theme 'Reflecting on the past, experiencing the present, shaping the future'. The Annual Forum has a greater focus on the application of institutional research and its role in evidenced-based strategic planning and decision making. Presentations at the Forum particularly focus on both conceptual and empirical studies, as well as practical case studies, to showcase the value of institutional research and its role in driving change. As Institutional Researchers we play a critical role in universities and private providers, and the themes this year invite presenters to reflect on and respond to some of the challenges we face in the constantly changing higher education sector. [Visit the 2018 AAIR Annual Forum website](#) at to find out more.

The AAIR Annual Forum program includes a full day of pre-Forum

workshops devoted to SIGs, so if business intelligence, data warehousing, load management and government reporting are among your areas of interest and you are unable to make it to the AAIR SIG Forum in July, you can still catch up with fellow SIG colleagues here. Survey Managers have indicated their preference to be part of the AAIR Annual Forum, so we have incorporated the Surveys and Evaluation SIG in the pre-Forum workshops, and this will include a session run by the [Social Research Centre](#) who manage the [QILT](#) suite of surveys.

Once again, we would like to thank our ongoing sponsors — namely [Altis](#) and [eXplorance](#) — who have been long supporters of AAIR and make it possible for us to continue to provide these events for our members and the broader institutional research community.

**Don Johnston, AAIR Vice-President & Andrea Jeffreys, Secretary**



## EDITORIAL

Has it really been a year since the last Australian Federal Budget? No surprises for the tertiary sector this year, but some good news for regional institutions with funding over four years for nearly 700 extra student places for young people from regional areas. This is in direct response to this year's release of the [Independent Review into Regional, Rural and Remote Education](#). There's a full summary of Budget outcomes for our sector on page 8.

A couple of significant calendar dates: Registrations for the upcoming [AAIR SIG Forum](#) in Canberra are still open (early bird registration ending 24 May 2018). The theme this year is: *Politics, Planning and Performance: Good Governance Starts How? Sub themes this year include: business intelligence and analytics; data warehousing; load management, and; government reporting.*

And, Melbourne provides the perfect setting for the [2018 AAIR Annual Forum](#) with the theme: *Reflecting on the Past, Experiencing the Present, Shaping the Future* closer to the end of the year (19 to 21 November). Registrations are now open, as are the call for abstracts.

Finally, this month we are very fortunate to interview AAIR Executive Committee member (Strategic Planning Portfolio) and former AAIR Newsletter Editor (2014–2016) Louise Hargreaves, Manager, Government Relations and Institutional Research at Bond University. Fortunate because I've been nagging Louise for months now ... 😊

Happy reading - Tracy

## SECTOR NEWS AND VIEWS

### [Australian Federal Budget summary – tertiary education outcomes:](#)

University course funding continues to be frozen, as originally announced in the Mid-Year Economic Financial Outlook in December.

[The Conversation](#) again offered up their usual interactive infographic summary of the Budget and [ABC News](#) duplicated their 2017 visual summary with 'winner' and 'loser' cards: Winners: Small business, **spies** and mental health. Losers: The ABC (the irony), **famous people** and foreign doctors.

### Editor's full budget summary page 8/9

[Universities Australia](#) led with praise for the boost to research infrastructure and increased pathway places for regional students. The [Regional Universities Network](#) congratulated the government on their emphasis on regional HE. The [National Tertiary Education Union](#) were less congratulatory, believing the 2018 Budget was a lost opportunity for Australian HE. HE commentator Tim Dodd ([The Australian](#)) pointed out the imbalance between VET and HE, "The big education task in this budget should have been a grand plan to fix this, but the government chose not to go down that path".

Ahead of the May 8 Federal Budget [Universities Australia](#) released [new analysis](#) warning that the government policy of funding undergraduate places for the next three years at 2017 levels will have a huge impact on labour productivity, measured as the difference between graduate wages and those earned by people with VET certificates.

As well, excellent insights from Omer Yezdani, ACU ([The Conversation](#), May 7): [Capping university places will mean a less skilled and diverse workforce](#). The Director, Office of Planning and Strategic Management, outlines concerns attributed to the funding freeze and adds: "there is really only one problem with the demand-driven system. It costs more than our society is currently willing to bear".

More than 50,000 students who started university in Australia this year will drop out. Not every incomplete degree

amounts to a waste of time and money. A [Grattan Institute](#) online survey of students who dropped out reveals many found their course interesting, learned useful skills and made new friends. More than 40 per cent said they would enrol again if they had their time over. Full report [here](#) and background report [here](#).

Sophie Lindsay and Colin Jevons from Monash University discussed their research in light of the Grattan Report discussing involuntary attrition in [Why some students are excluded from university later in their degree, and how to remedy it](#) ([The Conversation](#), May 3). The authors put mental health issues at the frontline of causes and called for a redress of mental health services to further support students.

A study, sponsored by the [Regional Universities Network](#) (RUN), showed that the universities which are located outside of major population centres employ enough people to be the equivalent of 6,000 full-time jobs, and make skilled graduates available to local economies. The report, by the Nous Group and the Centre for Policy Studies, found that the six universities also supplied regional areas with much needed skills. It found seven out of 10 working RUN graduates are employed in a regional area, compared to two out of 10 of all Australian university graduates.

The Group of Eight (Go8), which represents Australia's eight leading research-intensive universities, and the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) have [announced](#) they have signed a three-year collaboration agreement. Go8 Chief Executive, Ms Vicki Thomson said the agreement will facilitate policy dialogue and engagement to promote more equitable outcomes for students from low socio-economic backgrounds and from regional and remote locations.

### Other news

Catriona Jackson is the next chief executive of [Universities Australia](#). She will replace Belinda Robinson who is stepping down after seven years. Ms Jackson is now deputy at UA.

A [third university has secured an exemption from the government's funding ceiling for undergraduate places](#), following abolition of the demand-driven system. The University of Tasmania will receive \$41.1m from this financial year to 2021-22 to fund 500 new



sub bachelor places and 1000 on-going ones from 2019. It follows new money for student places to the University of the Sunshine Coast and Southern Cross University. The UTas allocation is in a departmental [response](#) to a Senate Estimates question asked by Labor's Jacinta Collins.

Nineteen out of 52 Australian institutions offering teacher education (that's over one-third) reported failure rates of over 10 per cent in either the literacy or numeracy section of the test. This is the second year the literacy and numeracy test (initiated by former federal Education Minister Christopher Pyne) has been applied to all teacher trainees. Minister for Education and Training [Simon Birmingham](#) said more than 23,000 teaching students sat the Turnbull Government's Literacy and Numeracy Test last year to assess whether they had skills in the top 30 per cent of the adult population. However, the results drew some [criticism](#) for high failure rates in various institutions, and claims the testing model is implemented [differently](#) from university to university.

Modelling from Victoria University's [Mitchell Institute](#) (Peter Noonan and Sarah Pilcher) found two-year caps on higher education student funding would see participation rates flat line, while ongoing caps would result in a sharp decline. Multiple scenarios involving vocational education and training all recorded declining participation rates. The decline was particularly pertinent in the VET sector: all eight scenarios resulted in lower participation rates.

Data on education exports is, "fragmented and somewhat inaccessible to the majority of interested parties," [new](#) research for private provider Navitas warns. The report, prepared by consultants Nous, details datasets collected by multiple agencies for multiple purposes across different reporting periods with mixed availability. In the case of some Austrade reports information is only available to paying customers of the commission.

Monash University has announced its new [Monash Commission](#) "established to conduct a series of independent, in-depth inquiries into public policy matters that Monash University sees as critical to Australia's future". Led by VC Margaret Gardner, the results of each Commission's deliberations will be made public in the form of papers and a final

report, along with any other publishable artefacts that arise from the Commission's inquiries.

### Campus news

LaTrobe University is [building accommodation](#) for 600 students at the Bundoora campus, there are now beds for 1500. The university currently has around 8000 international students.

Curtin University has [opened a campus in Mauritius](#), its fourth overseas location after Malaysia, Singapore and Dubai.

Monash University will harness the power of big data on its Clayton campus to make its buildings work more efficiently. The idea is to make the buildings "cognitive" so that usage can be tracked, energy usage adjusted, and facilities can be optimised for the demand put on them. The university has signed an agreement with [Honeywell Building Solutions](#) to implement the program. It says it will contribute to its broader "net zero initiative" in which the university aims to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

Property developer and former Toll Holdings chief Paul Little and his wife, former investment banker Jane Hansen, have [given \\$30 million](#) to the University of Melbourne to fund a scholarship program, along with a new student residence building to be called Little Hall. The scholarships will be aimed at "outstanding students" who, due to personal circumstances, have difficulty in studying at the university.

### Rankings

Universitas 21 has [released](#) its annual ranking of national higher education systems which puts the U.S. in top spot, with European countries and the UK in the next six spots. Canada is eighth, Singapore is ninth and Australia tenth.

The [QS executive MBA ranking](#) is out, with results that are not especially good for ANZ schools. The Melbourne Business School ranks 27<sup>th</sup> in the world, with UNSW at 37<sup>th</sup>, and RMIT at 97.

Melbourne and Sydney have moved up the ranking of best world cities for students, according to the latest listing from education analyst firm [QS Quacquarelli Symonds](#). In NZ, Auckland came 23<sup>rd</sup> (first in NZ) and Christchurch was 69<sup>th</sup> (second in NZ).

### Meanwhile in New Zealand

Education New Zealand has [launched](#) a new campaign to tap into the ongoing global conversation around the future of work, leveraging its position as the number one study destination for future-focused learning.

Victoria University of Wellington is considering [changing its name](#) because it is repeatedly confused with other institutions around the world with a similar name.

### Around the world

[International student numbers near half a million](#). The number of foreign students studying at universities on the Chinese mainland is closing in on the half a million mark, with 489,200 students in 2017, according to the [latest figures](#) from the ministry of education in Beijing.

[Big data could be key to Africa's graduate employability](#). All over the African continent, higher education is expanding its reach, both in terms of numbers and range of qualifications. At the same time, Sub-Saharan universities face enormous challenges in enhancing quality and relevance. There are many reasons for this – paramount is the issue of the lack of reliable and useful data on the basis of which to plan, monitor and review.

[Universities increase fees for foreign students](#). Kwantlen Polytechnic University is one of several universities in British Columbia and elsewhere in Canada that have imposed steep fee increases for international students, who already pay tuition rates as much as seven times higher than their Canadian counterparts.

[Social media 'fair game' say admissions staff](#). More than two-thirds of U.S. college admissions officers said that it's fair to visit applicants' social media profiles to help decide who gets in, a recent survey has found. One in ten admitted they had revoked an incoming student's offer because of what they found on social media.

[BBC uncovers more than 250 YouTubers promoting academic cheating](#). A BBC investigation has uncovered more than 250 prominent YouTube stars who are actively encouraging students across the globe to purchase coursework from an 'essay mill' based in Ukraine. The [EduBirdie](#) website allows students to order and pay for essays written by



'professionals' rather than completing the work themselves.

Minerva, the new US University which has challenged the education model of the Ivy League, has [announced its first partnership with another university](#) to emulate its unique curriculum and teaching model. Hong Kong University of Science and Technology will adopt Minerva's active learning approach, in which all classes are taught as seminars, for about 30 students. They will complete the four cornerstone courses from Minerva's four-year generalist degree during the first two years of their HKUST program.

## BIG DATA, ONLINE LEARNING, ANALYTICS & TECHNOLOGY

The new role of 'data scientist' is one of the world's fastest growing professions. [The future of work: Occupational and education trends in data science in Australia](#), a new report by Deloitte Access Economics, forecasts that the Australian data science workforce will rise from 301,000 persons in 2016–17 to 339,000 in 2021–22. This represents an annual average growth rate of 2.4 per cent, significantly higher than the 1.5 per cent a year growth rate that is forecast for the Australian labour force overall in the same period.

From *EdTech* (May 10): [5 Ed Tech Trends Redefine the Connected Campus](#). The connected campus is not a one-size-fits-all endeavour. Individual institutions will develop the best strategy for their communities, and these will evolve in response as new challenges and opportunities emerge.

And from *eCampus News* (May 9) [9 trends shared by innovative community colleges](#). Supporting mobile devices is a top priority among a majority of community colleges surveyed in the Center for Digital Education's annual [Digital Community Colleges Survey](#), which offers an inside look at schools' technology and innovation priorities. Other priorities include cybersecurity tools and testing, redesigning or upgrading websites, upgrading classroom technologies, digital content and curriculum, and disaster recovery/business continuity.

[Professor Bans Laptops, Sees Grades Rise](#). At an institution that prides itself on

its use of technology, one professor goes in the opposite direction - banning all electronic devices in his classes.

University IT chiefs focus most on how their systems support students, according to the [annual survey](#) from the Council of Australasian University Directors of IT (CAUDIT). How to ensure seamless access to all university services is the number one issue for the third year running. It is followed by IT security (third in 2017) business transformation (sixth in '17,) digital strategy, (trends in which university staff assume their IT colleagues are across) and ed tech (fifth).

As reported in the April newsletter, on May 25, 2018, the European Union (EU) General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) takes effect. It strengthens data protections for EU residents as well as people and organisations who do business in the EU, even if they are not located in the EU. Higher education professionals need to learn what the GDPR entails and how institutions are held accountable to it.

*HE considerations once the GDPR is in place:*

- International students from the EU;
- Students studying in the EU;
- Programs operating in the EU;
- Alumni and donors living in the EU

In the U.S. the AIR reviews these new regulations in their [newsletter](#).

Also from AIR, an interview with Stephanie Evergreen, opening keynote speaker for the 2018 AIR Forum in Orlando, Florida - [Changing Organizational Culture With Better Data Visualization](#).

[Towards a Bologna Digital strategy for higher education](#). From *University World News* (May 4): "Twenty years after the Sorbonne Declaration, the key challenges of opening up higher education, improving the quality of teaching and learning, reforming assessment and recognition and promoting internationalisation and mobility remain the same for all countries in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)".

From the UK, Wonkhe's David Kernohan [dives into the latest graduate employment data – the Graduate Labour Market Survey 2017](#) – to pick out some of the most interesting trends and compare it to the Longitudinal Education Outcomes (LEO) dataset as a measure of

graduate employment. Kernohan presents the data on a Tableau dashboard.

[What are higher-ed's analytics priorities?](#) Higher-ed leaders are increasingly focused on institutional analytics, despite challenges associated with implementing enterprise-wide programs, according to a new Ellucian survey of 200 college presidents, provosts, CFOs, CTOs, and CIOs.

From the U.S., [11 online education trends institutions should track](#). Career aspirations continue to drive students' decisions to enrol in online education programs, according to a new survey tracking online learning trends. [The report from BestColleges.com](#) surveyed 295 online program administrators and 1,500 students, including prospective students, current students, and alumni, to gauge their experiences in online education programs.

[9 online learning trends straight from chief online officers](#). A new U.S. report examines what chief online officers have to say about must-have technologies and tools, new program ventures, and alternative learning providers. The [2018 Changing Landscape of Online Education](#) is part of a continuing effort to uncover what chief online officers at higher-ed institutions think about learning policies, practices, and plans. It's a joint initiative of Quality Matters and Eduventures.

[Facebook Says It Will Help Academics Use Its Data. Here's How That's Supposed to Work](#). In the wake of the Cambridge Analytica scandal one would think that Facebook would like academics out of using data for research. However, a new project is set to work with Facebook to examine the impact of social media has had on democracy.

[Pearson conducts experiment on thousands of college students without their knowledge](#). Pearson, the largest education company in the world, conducted a "social-psychological" experiment on thousands of college students in the United States — without asking for permission — by adding language into some of its software programs and then tracking how much the messages affected problem-solving. Student privacy advocates have long been concerned with education publishing companies using students as "guinea pigs."



Still on privacy, [When Learning Analytics Violate Student Privacy](#). With education technologies increasingly using analytics to measure and assess student learning, there is a lot of data flying around on higher education campuses. How are institutions establishing principles and policies around the responsible use of that data? So far, few have published clear definitions of learning data or guidelines for how students' data can be used or shared.

From *Inside Higher Ed* (April 25) [A Silicon Valley 'Evangelist' Who Doesn't Bash Higher Ed](#). Colleges will have to change how they teach Gen Z students in the era of digitisation, but the students have much to learn, too.

Also from *Inside Higher Ed* (May 4) [From Potential Bias to Action](#). "Student evaluations are biased". Research provides ample evidence of those biases, as noted in Victor Ray's [recent summary](#) of the contentious debates about using student evaluations to assess teaching effectiveness. The author provides some tools to begin challenging how we consider student evaluations in light of the biases found in the research literature.

From the *Conversation* (UK, April 18) [Five ways artificial intelligence will shape the future of universities](#), which includes utilising blockchain technology, for example, to automate recognition and the transfer of credits, potentially opening up learning opportunities across universities.

And this ...

[Blockchain set to revolutionise academic credentials and portability](#). Blockchain technology could hold the key to a future of secure, portable academic credentials for students – particularly relevant for cross-border mobility, experts told stakeholders last week at the annual summit of the [Groningen Declaration Network](#).

## GRADUATE OUTCOMES AND EMPLOYABILITY

Janice Orrell from Flinders University [discusses](#) the increase in Work Integrated Learning in university and calls for a refresh in terms of supporting these programs. Orrell adds, "A cultural shift is also required in industry, the professions and among university programs to support the aims of these programs. Generating evidence to support the

benefits requires big data and long-term national studies, not the atomistic, short-term single program or institution ones that prevail".

[Clearer Distinctions Between Traditional Programs and Microcredentials Will Improve Outcomes for Both](#) In *The Evollution* (27 April): The expansion of the market for alternative credentials—including microcredentials, micromasters, nanodegrees, badges, boot camps and short-term certificates—is fitting for our times.

[Bringing Order to 'Badges': Nonprofit Works With Colleges on Framework to Measure Soft Skills](#). From the U.S., a non-profit group called the Education Design Lab [released a toolkit](#) to help colleges set up badge-offering efforts, which it created in partnership with a dozen colleges and universities. As of today, the site gives eight examples of "21st-Century Skills Badges" offered by partners, including critical thinking, oral communication and intercultural fluency.

From *eCampus News* (May 10) [Unbundling the 4-year degree: How to design education for the future](#). Countless organisations are rethinking how students learn and earn skills in postsecondary education.

## LEARNING & TEACHING

[STEM review: Schools and universities are sending the 'wrong signals' to students, chief scientist finds](#). Schools, universities and the ATAR system are driving students away from vital science, maths and technology subjects, according to chief scientist Alan Finkel, who has strongly defended the importance of STEM in a report to the country's education ministers.

ANU has announced a changed undergraduate admission model. DVC Marnie Hughes Warrington identified inspiration for the changes in the new edition of her long-running [blog](#) on life and work at ANU.

A new paper from Tracey Bretag, Rowena Harper (UniSA) and colleagues reports on a major survey of contract cheating and course work sharing in Australian universities. Last year the authors reported [their findings](#) in a major survey of contract cheating by students in Australia and have expanded their analysis of 14,000

student responses at eight Australian universities in a [major new paper](#).

## RESEARCH

CQU wants to [codify research workloads](#) for academic staff, allocating them to five categories from teaching-intensive (75 per cent teaching/15 per cent scholarship/10 per cent engagement) to research-intensive (20 per cent teaching/70 per cent research and 10 per cent service and engagement).

[Academics call on Facebook to make data more widely available for research](#).

A group of 20 academics based at universities around the world have written an [open letter to Facebook](#), calling on the company to rethink how it engages with the research community. In the wake of recent controversies over privacy, Facebook recently announced [restrictions](#) to third-party access to public user data via its Application Programming Interfaces (API).

['Big Deal' Cancellations Gain Momentum](#).

In the U.S., an increasing number of universities are ending, or threatening to end, bundled journal subscriptions with major publishers.

## (MORE) REPORTS AND RESOURCES



[Dropping out: the benefits and costs of trying university](#)

Grattan Institute

Main takeaways:

- Not all attrition is bad
- School results are important in terms of retention
- While the *share* of students leaving university early is not growing drastically, the *number* of these students is growing substantially – (because about 40 per cent more people go to university now than in 2008)



- Studying part-time increases the risk of not completing and the fewer subjects taken the higher the risk.
- The one equity group with a substantially elevated non-completion risk is Indigenous students. Their risk of not completing is 45 per cent, 15 percentage points above non-Indigenous students

Recommendations point to government policy (changes to information provided by QILT and TEQSA monitoring) – however, at a local level there are strategies for increased awareness around monitoring engagement and disengagement and reviewing Census date policies and the information we provide our students.

### The University of the Future



#### EY (Ernst & Young)

*Can the universities of today lead learning for tomorrow? The University of the Future* presents a formal scenario planning process aimed to assist university leaders and government policy makers in “planning now, to deliver the educational needs of students and employers, tomorrow”.

The report presents four future scenarios for the Australian higher education landscape (Champion university, Commercial university, Virtual university and Disruptor university) and five external drivers of change.

#### EY Recommendations:

- Embark on a double transformation to survive and thrive
- Make the shift from being faculty-focused to learner-centric
- Integrate with industry to co-create and collaborate
- Reimagine the physical campus for the virtual world
- Experiment with unbundling programs and deconstructing the value chain

## ON THE MOVE

Professor **Marcia Devlin** has been appointed as DVC and Senior Vice-President of Victoria University, Melbourne – she will commence her new role in June.

**Margaret Gardner** will continue as Monash University VC through to August 2024, bringing up a decade in the job.

UNSW vice-chancellor **Ian Jacobs** has been given another five years in his job, taking his tenure to at least 2025

At QUT, **Adam Williams** will act as registrar during recruitment for a successor to Shard Lorenzo, who is retiring. **Ian O’Hara** is acting as Executive Director of the Institute of Future Environments, while a successor to Bronwyn Harch is found. Professor Harch is moving to the University of Queensland, to become DVC Research.

**Eileen McLaughlin** is joining the University of Canberra as the new executive dean of science and technology.

**Warren Bebbington** will chair the board of design college LCI Melbourne, part of a global 21-campus chain, founded in Canada. The college was created 20 years ago as the Australian Academy of Design. Professor Bebbington was VC of the University of Adelaide from 2012 until 2017.

UWA’s **David Harrison** is moving to Murdoch University. The corporate communications and government relations chief leaves UWA after six years.

**Mike Brooks** has been appointed provost at the University of Adelaide. He takes on oversight of the university’s five faculties in addition to his existing job, DVC Research.

**James Giggacher** returns to Canberra to join the communications team at Universities Australia. He moves from RMIT, prior to which he was at ANU.

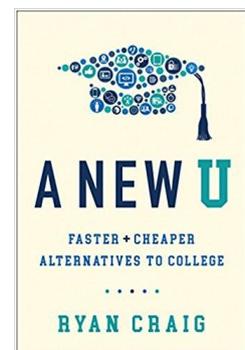
**Vicki Chen** is the new executive dean of the faculty of engineering, architecture and information technology at the University of Queensland. Professor Chen joins from UNSW, where she is head of the school of chemical engineering.

**Michelle Lincoln** is the new executive dean of the health faculty at the University of Canberra. She joins from the University of Sydney.

**Murray Hurps** joins UTS as director of entrepreneurship. He is a former chief of Sydney start-up facility Fishburners.

Political commentator **Peter van Onselen** is joining Griffith University’s business school as a part-time academic in politics and policy. He continues as a professor of politics at UWA.

## BOOK REVIEWS

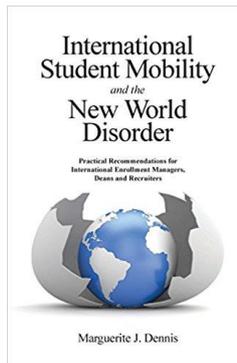


### A New U: Faster + Cheaper Alternatives to College

Ryan Craig

In *A New U: Faster + Cheaper Alternatives to College*, Ryan Craig documents the early days of a revolution that will transform—or make obsolete—many colleges and universities. Alternative routes to great first jobs that do not involve a bachelor’s degree are sprouting up all over the place. Bootcamps, income-share programs, apprenticeships, and staffing models are attractive alternatives to great jobs in numerous growing sectors of the economy: coding, healthcare, sales, digital marketing, finance and accounting, insurance, and data analytics.

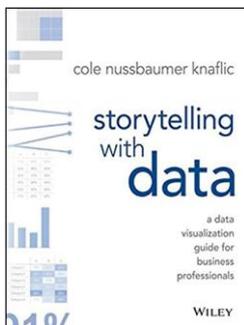




**International Student Mobility and the New World Disorder: Practical Recommendations for International Enrollment Managers, Deans and Recruiters**

**Marguerite J Dennis**

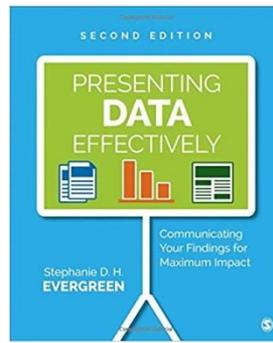
Based on ten years of research and written with insight and creativity, *International Student Mobility and the New World Disorder and Practical Recommendations for International Enrollment Managers, Deans and Recruiters* expands the marketplace of ideas and offers readers multiple approaches to planning and implementing strategic international programs and recruiting future international students.



**Storytelling with Data: A Data Visualization Guide for Business Professionals**

**Cole Nussbaumer Knaflic**

*Storytelling with Data* teaches you the fundamentals of data visualisation and how to communicate effectively with data. You'll discover the power of storytelling and the way to make data a pivotal point in your story. The lessons in this illuminative text are grounded in theory, but made accessible through numerous real-world examples—ready for immediate application to your next graph or presentation.



**Presenting Data Effectively: Communicating Your Findings for Maximum Impact**

**Stephanie Evergreen**

The book guides students, researchers, evaluators, and non-profit workers—anyone reporting data to an outside audience—through design choices in four primary areas: graphics, text, color, and arrangement. The Second Edition features an improved layout with larger screenshots, a review of the recent literature on data visualisation, and input from a panel of graphic design experts.

## 2018 FEDERAL BUDGET SUMMARY



(Image: [First Dog on the Moon goes to his seventh budget. And it's a disaster.](#))

**2018 Federal Budget – Higher Education summary**

**Cuts and revenue:**

University course funding continues to be frozen, as originally announced in the Mid-Year Economic Financial Outlook in December.

**\$30.7 million** over the next four years in new revenue by applying an annual charge for FEE-HELP and HECS-HELP providers, as well as an application fee for FEE-HELP providers (The levying of an annual charge for all HELP providers - including universities - to raise \$31 million over four years)

The HELP debt minimum repayment income to be set at \$45,000 from June 1, and repayment thresholds will be indexed to the consumer price index (inflation rate).

**New spending:**

**\$123.6 million** from 2017-18 to 2021-22 for increases in commonwealth supported undergraduate places at the University of Tasmania, University of the Sunshine Coast and Southern Cross University.

**\$96 million** over four years for nearly 700 extra student places for young people from regional areas. This is in response to the [Independent Review into Regional, Rural and Remote Education](#). This includes improvements to regional students' access to Youth Allowance by changing the threshold and assessment year for parental income.

**Status Quo:**

HEPPP and DSP (Disabilities Support Program) remain the same as predicted in 2017 MYEFO

**Tuition fee allowances:**

'Better alignment around student payments'. The Government wants to align student payments for higher education courses with eligibility for the Higher Education Loan Program. Under the new arrangements, eligibility for student payments will be limited to students undertaking courses approved for higher education loans.

Strengthening ABSTUDY with particular attention to rental and boarding costs for recipients

Changes to the combined lifetime limit for tuition fee assistance announced as part of higher education reforms in the 2017-18 MYEFO. The changes include allowing students who have reached their combined lifetime limit for tuition fee assistance under the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) and the VET Student Loans program to re-access loan amounts repaid after 30 June 2019; and delaying the commencement date for the combined lifetime limit for tuition fee assistance from 1 January 2019 to 1 January 2020.

**Regulation:**

Funding to support Unique Student Identifier (USI). The USI transcript service provides VET students with a secure online record of their nationally



recognised training and qualifications gained in Australia.

A change to TEQSA's funding arrangements

#### **Additional funding with HE implications:**

Research funding will receive a modest boost, with nearly A\$400 million extra over five years for [research infrastructure](#). New spending on space agency (\$41 million) and AI and machine learning research (\$39 million). (But, government wants to tighten restrictions on research and development tax credits for Australian business

Australian Technology and Science Growth Plan to encourage more women to pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and careers. The funding will progress: the Women in Science Strategy; a 10 year plan for increasing women's STEM participation; the work of the new Women in STEM Ambassador who will focus on promoting STEM in schools and to school-aged girls; and the development and distribution of a STEM Choices resources kit to address the under-representation of girls in STEM education.

Enhanced Support for 1800RESPECT the national sexual assault, domestic and family violence counselling and information referral service which many universities are access to support students and staff who may experience sexual assault or domestic violence.

Continuity of support for National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) which improves inclusion for PWD in education and employment

(Summary compilation includes details from the [Equity Practitioners in Higher Education Australasia](#))

[The Conversation](#) again offered up their usual interactive infographic summary of the Budget and [ABC News](#) duplicated their 2017 visual summary with 'winner' and 'loser' cards: Winners: Small business, **spies** and mental health. Losers: The ABC (the irony), **famous people** and foreign doctors.

[Universities Australia](#) led with praise for the boost to research infrastructure and increased pathway places for regional students. The [Regional Universities Network](#) congratulated the government on their emphasis on regional HE. The [National Tertiary Education Union](#) were less congratulatory, believing the 2018 Budget was a lost opportunity for

Australian HE. HE commentator Tim Dodd ([The Australian](#)) pointed out the imbalance between VET and HE, "The big education task in this budget should have been a grand plan to fix this, but the government chose not to go down that path".

In the Labour Party's [reply](#) on May 10 the Opposition Leader Bill Shorten said they would abolish the government's "unfair cap on student places" and it will "back public TAFE all the way," The Opposition Leader also committed to "waiving fees for 100 000 TAFE students "in high-priority sectors."

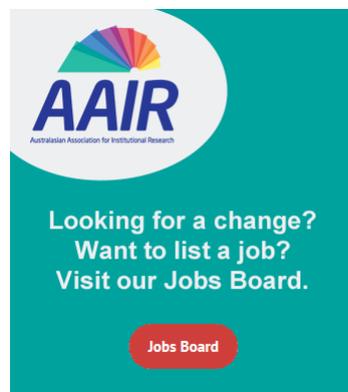
#### **Editor's Budget analysis**

**recommendation:** Comprehensive overview of budget implications for the entire education sector from Andrew Norton and Glenn Savage in [The Conversation](#) (May 9)

#### **Best interactive news website for**

**Budget summary:** The Guardian [The complete 2018 Australian budget: choose what matters to you](#)

## POSITIONS VACANT



**AAIR**  
Australian Association for Institutional Research

Looking for a change?  
Want to list a job?  
Visit our Jobs Board.

Jobs Board

## LOOKING FOR SOME TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT?

See our [Training and Development](#) webpage focused on training for institutional researchers.



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#### **Higher Education Information Management System (HEIMS).**

Visit the HEIMSHelp [Training page](#) with details of the training resources that are available to help you meet reporting and verification deadlines

## LOOKING FOR HIGHER EDUCATION CONFERENCES AND EVENTS?

Here is a selection of upcoming events that may be of interest. See our [Events/Fora](#) webpage for more national and international events.



**ATEM have released their 2018 event calendar**

<https://www.atem.org.au/documents/item/790>

#### **AIR Forum 2018**



**May 29 – June 1, Orlando, Florida, US**

The AIR Forum, the Association's annual conference, is the world's largest gathering of higher education

professionals working in institutional research, assessment, planning, and related postsecondary education fields.

### EduTECH Australia 2018



**6-8 June, International Convention Centre, Sydney, Australia**

EduTECH is an annual event where the entire education and training sector gather together to learn, debate, exchange ideas and be inspired by the very latest in education thought leadership.

### Student Services Centre Conference



**13-15 June, 2018, Adelaide, South Australia**

### Women in Education Leadership Summit

**18 - 22 June, Novotel, Sydney**

Great leaders inspire innovation. They cultivate progress and new perspectives, propelling their organisation into the future. This inspiring summit will equip you with the technical know-how and confidence to lead your organisation into the future. **AAIR members receive 10% discount.**

### 11th National Policy Officers Conference

**25 -29 June, Hyatt Hotel, Canberra**

Liquid Learning's 11th National Policy Officers' Conference will bring together senior public servants and seasoned policy professionals to delve into the entire life-cycle of policy. They will explore contemporary approaches and potential solutions to overcome policy's most common challenges. **AAIR members receive 10% discount.**



### HERDSA: (Re) Valuing Education

**2-5 July, 2018, Adelaide, Australia**

HERDSA offers an annual international conference on topical teaching and learning issues with opportunities to meet colleagues with similar interests, exchange ideas about teaching and learning and learn about current developments from experienced researchers and practitioners.

### STARS Conference



**8-11 July 2018, Auckland, New Zealand**

Registrations are now open for the 2018 Conference. The STARS Conference provides the opportunity to disseminate and discuss current research, good practice, emerging initiatives and leading-edge ideas that are aimed at enhancing students' tertiary learning experiences

### Financial Modelling for Higher Education Workshops

**18 - 19 July, Melbourne**

**25 -26 July, Sydney**

More than ever, it is crucial for Higher Education finance professionals to create more forward looking accurate models based on relevant data to provide leaders with the metrics to drive organisational direction. This intensive two-day workshop will rapidly enhance the hard and soft skill sets of participants. **AAIR members receive 10% discount.**

### AAIR SIG Forum 2018



**26-27 July, 2018, Canberra, Australia**

The theme for this year's forum is:

**"Politics, Planning and Performance: Good Governance Starts How?"**

The 2018 Forum will be hosted by the University of Canberra and held at Rydges Capital Hill on the edge of the parliamentary triangle, only a few hundred metres from Parliament House.

### 40th Annual EAIR Forum 2018 Budapest



**26-29 August 2018 Central European University, Hungary**

EAIR - The European Higher Education Society. Linking research, policy and practice *Conference Theme: Competition, Collaboration and Complementarity in Higher Education.*



The Higher Education Institutional Research (HEIR) Network is calling for abstracts for its HEIR Conference the **Changing Landscape of Higher Education – Challenges and Opportunities for Institutional Research.** The Conference is on 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> of September 2018 in Dublin, Ireland.

### Higher Education Executive Assistants Intensive

**10 - 11 October, Melbourne**

**16 -17 October, Sydney**

Within an evolving and dynamic Higher Education sector, executive support professionals are faced with demanding expectations. This two-day intensive is designed to equip Higher Education Executive Assistants with the knowledge and practical tools to develop professional excellence and step up as an expert influencer in their organisation. **AAIR members receive 10% discount.**



**ASCILITE 2018**

25-28 November 2018, Deakin University at their Waterfront Campus in Gheringhap Street, Geelong, Australia



35th International Conference on Innovation, Practice and Research in the Use of Educational Technologies in Tertiary Education

**AAIR Forum 19-21 November, Melbourne, Australia**

We invite you to save the date for the 29th AAIR Annual Forum, *Reflecting on the Past, Experiencing the Present, Shaping the Future*. Join us this November in the trend-setting metropolis of Melbourne

Specialists will converge on the city to discuss key issues in the sector and we encourage first timers and veteran AAIRies alike to submit an abstract and be part of the concurrent sessions.

Discussion topics will include:

- The Evolving Role of the Institutional Researcher
- Justifying the Value of Higher Education and Research
- Evidence Based Strategic Planning and Implementation
- Benchmarking for Continuous Quality Improvement
- Informing Learning and Teaching through Evaluation and Surveys
- Realising Benefits - The Role of Institutional Research in Transformation Projects
- Compliance and Government Reporting Reform
- Business Intelligence, Analytics, Visualisation and Modelling - The Foundations of IR

**TEQSA Conference 2018**

28-30 November, Grand Hyatt, Melbourne, Australia

The theme for this year's conference – Innovation, Excellence, Diversity – will explore key objects of the TEQSA Act which call for us to protect and enhance these values in Australian higher education. The additional student theme will continue important discussions and involvement of students championed at last year's conference. **Registrations and call for papers now open**

**Save the Date – AAIRies from the Last Century Dinner**

**18 November (prior to AAIR Forum, Melbourne)**

Following on from the very successful 'Original AAIRies' dinner held as part of the 2014 Forum, Roni and Wendy are planning a follow-up 'AAIRies from the Last Century' dinner which will precede the upcoming 29<sup>th</sup> AAIR Forum in Melbourne. This dinner will not be part of the official 2018 AAIR Forum, so you don't have to be registered to the main Forum to attend.



(Pictured: AAIRies from 2014 Reunion Dinner – Past Presidents)

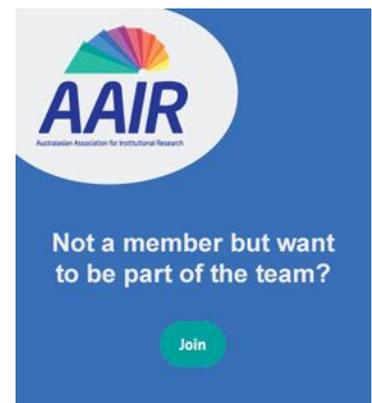
Feel free to send on the message to any other early AAIRies who might be interested.

In fact, please let us know and/or do some scouting if possible to find where your former AAIR colleagues/friends are, as we've unfortunately lost contact with many original AAIRies. More information about the dinner will be sent out to potential/interested attendees and posted on the AAIR website closer to the date.



(Pictured: AAIRies from 2014 Reunion Dinner, Life Members Nick Booth and Roni McDowell)

[Register your interest in the event](#)



## INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCHER'S CORNER

### Five quick questions with Louise Hargreaves, Bond University



#### What is your job title?

Manager, Government Relations and Institutional Research

#### Briefly, how would you describe your role in terms of your place in your institution?

Our team is situated in the Information and Planning unit within the Office of Strategy, Systems and People (SSP). The Office is a central, independent unit reporting directly to the Vice President of Operations.

My role is responsible for providing information and analysis to support strategic planning and management decision making, particularly in relation to the external policy environment. This includes researching and monitoring government policy, financial, demographic and other factors relating to the University's strategy and performance, and ensuring that senior executives are informed of developing trends. I also manage data collections including surveys, international rankings, ratings and benchmarking.

#### From your perspective, what are the emerging areas of interest in institutional research?

One of the fundamental purposes of institutional research is to assist in balancing short-term decision making with long-term planning and strategic

objectives. As institutional research continues to develop from a service-based resource dedicated to supporting top-level management, to a more inclusive, institution-wide model servicing a multitude of stakeholders, we have the opportunity to add value to decision making at the operational as well as the strategic level.

The challenge in an environment of technological change (e.g. machine learning and big data analytics etc.) is to balance the short-term reactionary and opportunistic decisions with decisions necessary to implement the long-term strategy.

#### What do you believe will be the future priorities for institutional research?

For a profession that is less than 60 years old, institutional research has undergone regular evolution to meet the changing needs of higher education. This ability to adapt to data and information needs will see the role of institutional research become more relevant in a rapidly changing environment where decision making is becoming more complex.

The future priorities for institutional research are no different to other professions undergoing disruptive change. The question is, how do we continue to add value in a world where tools and data—once the domain of information and planning offices—become more widely accessible? In essence, we are facing the same disruption as universities—once the originators and keepers of knowledge—and the traditional university model is now being challenged by automated learning platforms and the availability of knowledge online.

In a new world of digital technologies, artificial intelligence and robots, we may need to consider reprioritising the institutional research skills set. Technical and analytical skills have long dominated institutional research; however, issues intelligence and contextual intelligence will become progressively more important. Our internal stakeholders will increasingly demand more than standard data reports, they will be seeking contextual understanding and information on how to apply the research findings. As institutional researchers, we need to have an extensive knowledge of the sector within which we work, and a deep understanding of how we can progress the institution's objectives within this environment.

#### Complete this statement: *In my role, I can't operate effectively without ...*

... the support, knowledge, and motivation of my fellow institutional researchers. I am also very fortunate to have mentors who encourage a high-performance environment and give so generously of their time in bringing each and every team member to their full potential.

#### Connect with Louise on LinkedIn

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/louisehargreaves/>

## CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

### Issue 6, June 2018

A great way to get involved with the AAIR community is to share your thoughts and ideas. Do you have something you would like to share with your IR colleagues? The next AAIR Newsletter will be published in late June 2018. Please send your contributions to the [editor@aaair.org.au](mailto:editor@aaair.org.au) by June 8, 2018.

A reminder about the organisations' social media links to keep you up-to-date and in touch with all the latest news and events.



 AAIR on Twitter [@AAIRaustralia](https://twitter.com/AAIRaustralia)



Tracy Creagh  
Editor, *The Institutional Researcher*

